

# Rhodes Letters 1846 - 1890



William Rhodes [WR1] 1791-1869 is the author of most of these letters, writing from England to his son in Canada. Ann Smith his wife died in 1827, long before these letters were written.



Col. William Rhodes [WR2] 1821-1892 was living in Canada with his wife and ever-increasing family (9 children born from 1848 to 1867). As recipient, few of the letters are written by him, but he must have saved them.



Godfrey Rhodes (left) 1850-1932 [WR2]'s second son, (he is also the author of "Godfrey's Diary") collected and read the letters in 1915, and wrote notes on them to his brother, another William Rhodes (right) [WR3], my great-grandfather.



(Note attached)

WR. This letter is rather interesting showing that early in life father [WR1] was interested in Uncle James (Rhodes). Grandfather must have been under 50 years of age when he wrote the letter in 1846 and father [WR2] only about 23. I daresay Frank and his sisters would like to see the letter. It may then be torn up. Godfrey W Rhodes 1915.

Lucerne July 23, 1846.

My dear William

I think it necessary to answer that part of your letter to Annie, in which you a second time propose yourself as a mediation between your brother James and me; and though it seems harsh after the recent events in our family to decline the offer, yet I must do it. I know it would only contribute to imbitter my remaining years, was your brother to be obtruded into my family, and as with the assistance of your Uncle and Grandfather, I have been enabled to find him a respectable home, if he had thought proper to accept it, I do not see that I am called upon to receive a person into my house, whose habits of life, are so uncongenial to my own. The same liberty which I claim for myself, I willingly concede to you, and I have only one objection to your asking him to spend such time as you think proper with you in England. He is the last in the entail of your great grandfather's will, and at the death of your uncle, and myself, will come in for the receipt of about three thousand [pounds] a year, the principle of which will be under his own control. I have studiously kept this information from him, having no doubt that he would raise money upon such expectation. Should you by bringing him over to England, put him in the way of acquiring this knowledge, no doubt you would receive his thanks, but whether you would receive the thanks of his family /should he ever have one/ or your own, I very much doubt. You will of course act as you think best. Your brothers, Godfrey and Frances, may I also think that this explanation is due to them, though heretofour they have been content to submit to my wishes. To prevent the unpleasantness of a third explanation, you will oblige me

by forwarding this letter to each of them. In my transactions with my children, I hope I am actuated by honest motives, but when they are enabled to maintain themselves, I do not see that they can claim any right to disturb my quiet mode of living. Your brother James I neither can, or will, receive as an inmate of my house, though I am willing to do him any kindness out of it. I am sorry that our views do not coincide, for no doubt we are both actuated by what we think good motives. Your Grandfather and Uncle, who are aware of all these circumstances, happily approve of my conduct. As Annie is writing you a long letter by this days post, you will excuse my writing more, and believe me ever to from your affectionate father and sincere friend WRhodes



James Rhodes 1819-1901 is William's older brother, and is entitled to inherit a substantial sum and income on the death of his father and uncle. This information has been kept from him, because they do not approve of his lifestyle, and feel that he will borrow against his future estate and then spend it all. Income of £3000 a year would be £200-300,000 annual income today.